

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5196
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, LY
SUBJECT: QADHAFI TIES HIS POLICIES TO KORAN

1. ON THE OCCASION OF THE PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY ON FEBRUARY 19, COLONEL QADHAFI DELIVERED A LONG THEOLOGICAL/POLITICAL LECTURE TO THE FAITHFUL AT ONE OF TRIPOLI'S MAJOR MOSQUES. THE SPEECH, WHICH HAS BEEN CARRIED VERBATIM IN THE LIBYAN MEDIA, APPARENTLY PROVED OFFENSIVE TO SOME BECAUSE OF CERTAIN OF ITS DOCTRINAL INTERPRETATIONS AND FOR ITS CLOSE LINKING OF THE KORAN WITH QADHAFI POLICIES. QADHAFI STATED INTER ALIA THAT PART I OF HIS GREEN BOOK, WHICH SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF DEMOCRACY, WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ELABORATION OF THE PASSAGE FROM THE KORAN WHICH SAYS "YOU MUST CONSULT EACH OTHER." THIS WAS THE REASON FOR "SETTING UP POPULAR CONGRESSES, POPULAR COMMITTEES AND TRADE UNIONS SO THAT THIS NATION WILL CONSULT ITSELF ON ALL IMPORTANT ASPECTS." QADHAFI SAID HE OMITTED TO MENTION THIS IN THE PREFACE TO THE GREEN BOOK SINCE THE LINKAGE WITH ISLAM MIGHT HAVE TURNED OFF THE MANY CHRISTIANS, JEWS AND EVEN PAGANS WHO WERE TO BENEFIT BY THE GREEN BOOK'S MESSAGE.
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2. QADHAFI WENT ON TO SAY THAT "ON READING THE SECOND CHAPTER WE SHALL FIND THAT IT IS AN AUTHENTIC EXPLANATION AND TRANSLATION OF GOD'S LAWS AS GIVEN IN THE KORAN." THIS IS UNDOUBTEDLY A REFERENCE TO PART II OF THE GREEN BOOK (TRIPOLI 0266), WHICH IS TO SOLVE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM. THUS QADHAFI IS CLAIMING

DIVINE INSPIRATION FOR BOTH HIS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES, AND THOSE WHO MAY BE EXPROPRIATED OR OTHERWISE JOLTED IN THE COURSE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE POLICIES WILL HAVE ONLY THE KORAN TO THANK.

3. IN APPARENT RESPONSE TO PERCEIVED LACK OF ENTHUSIASM IN SOME QUARTERS FOR QADHAFI'S MESSAGE, GOVERNMENT STAGED DEMONSTRATION FEBRUARY 21 IN DOWNTOWN TRIPOLI SQUARE TO SHOW POPULAR SUPPORT FOR QADHAFI'S VIEWS. THIS WAS A RATHER DULL SHOW AS TRIPOLI MASS EVENTS GO BUT PROVIDED NECESSARY CHANTING SCENES FOR TELEVISION WHICH ARE BEING REPLAYED PERIODICALLY.

CARLE

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Message Attributes

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